



December 14, 2022

Honorable Dave Kinskey
Honorable Bob Nicholas
Joint Appropriations Committee
200 West 24th Street, Capitol Building, E201
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Wyoming's Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (Letter #13)

Dear Chairman Kinskey, Chairman Nicholas and members of the Joint Appropriations Committee,

In keeping with my goal to save a significant amount of the welcomed bump in revenue to the State, I ask you to appropriate an additional \$5 million from the General Fund to the corpus of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT) account.

Established by the Legislature in 2005, this program has been an unqualified success for our iconic wildlife, open spaces, habitat and quality of life. It also helps assure Wyoming's wildlife is available for future generations. The goal amount of the corpus is a minimum of \$200 million. It is currently at \$190 million. The WWNRT Board of Directors has proposed that \$5 million dollars of earnings from the fund currently not needed for ongoing projects serve as a match to \$5 million of legislatively appropriated funds. I heartily endorse that proposal and by this letter request the remaining \$5 million from the General Fund.

Over the years this board of Wyoming residents from around the state have volunteered countless hours evaluating proposals and leveraging the earnings from the trust account as seed money and matches for a variety of private and federal funds. The criteria used by the board assures that projects selected provide improved and prime habitat in which Wyoming fish and wildlife can thrive.

To date, the board has reviewed approximately 1,400 applications, resulting in approximately 1,000 grants. The \$110 million investment from the trust account has provided an estimated \$800 million in return. The trust has partnered with more than 140 sponsoring organizations, resulting in projects in every county of the state. Additionally, those funds have gone to Wyoming contractors and small businesses who do the important habitat work on many of these projects. This investment is a boost to the economy of each of those counties.

This is truly an investment in and for our future. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Mark Gordon
Governor

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